

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 7 and 10 to 14 are pending in the application.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the end view between Figs. 2 and 3 is not numbered and because the two portions of Fig. 8 should be bracketed.

Replacement drawing sheets Figs. 2-5 and Figs. 6-8 are submitted. The drawing between Figs. 2 and 3 has been labeled Fig. 2a; a brief description has been added to the section BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING. In Fig. 8 brackets have been added to show that the two illustrations belong together.

Disclosure

The disclosure is objected to because of wrong symbols. The symbols have been replaced by the correct Greek letter "alpha" in paragraphs [0026] and [0027].

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 3-5, 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Collins*. Claims 1-8, 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Inoue et al.* Claims 1, 3-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Thor*.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 9 so that the above rejection no longer applies.

New Claims 11 to 14

New claim 11 defines a valve comprising a solenoid part and a valve part connected to the solenoid part. The valve part has a housing provided with connecting bores for a pressure medium. The valve part comprises a piston and the solenoid part acts on the piston to alternately connect the connecting bores to one another. The valve part has several grooves extending axially within the valve part and distributed at a spacing from one another in a circumferential direction of the valve part. The connecting bores each are positioned in one of the several grooves, respectively.

The grooves, as shown e.g. in Figs. 2 and 3 and as disclosed in the specification (paragraph 0009), extend axially and are distributed circumferentially at a spacing from one another. Such an arrangement is not shown in the cited references. *Collins* has annular ports 17, 18, 19 but no axial grooves spaced apart from one another in the circumferential

direction. *Thor* also shows only annular grooves and no axial grooves distributed in the circumferential direction. *Innoue et al.* apparently shows an axial groove connecting the feed-back choke 12 of chamber 11 to output port 8b. However, the reference does not show several axial grooves distributed in the circumferential direction at a spacing from one another.

Claim 11 is therefore believed to be allowable over the cited prior art. The subject matter of claims 12 to 14 corresponds to claims 5, 6, 10.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER


Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 8 and 9 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on August 18, 2005,


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Encl.: time extension petition (1 sheet); replacement drawing sheet/s Figs. (2 sheet/s)